



DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
BRIEFING MEMORANDUM

S/S

TOP SECRET/

To : The Secretary

From: NEA - Sidney Sober  
INR - Harold H. Saunders

Approved for Release  
by the Central Intelligence Agency  
Date: 13 NOV 2013

Analysis of Arab-Israeli Developments  
No. 364, February 2, 1978

Sadat clearly attaches great importance to his US visit. Despite the avoidance of public speculation about its outcome, it is becoming apparent that he hopes for some "dramatic and courageous act" on the part of the US commensurate with his trip to Jerusalem. Against this background, there are suggestions from Sadat's entourage that he is giving some consideration to pulling back from his initiative.

Sadat's primary purpose during his visit will be to press the US to use its good offices to elicit Israeli concessions. On Monday, Sadat was quoted by Cairo radio as saying that Egypt "wants the US to take a frank stand" which would "lay the groundwork for the solution of the intricate problems barring the way to peace." This theme has also been reiterated by Mubarak and other Egyptian officials. Another hint of what Sadat would consider as a "dramatic" US move was evidenced in his comments to the press after his meeting with a US Jewish delegation on Monday. On that occasion, he stressed that the Palestinian question must be resolved or else the peace process could "collapse."

Sadat also hopes to accomplish several other objectives in the US:

- He wants to exert a positive influence on US public opinion regarding the reasonableness of Egypt's position.

TOP SECRET/

--He expects that the trip will highlight close US-Egyptian relationship and his image as a statesman and thus reinforce his position and image at home.

Approved for Release  
by the Central Intelligence Agency  
Date: 13 NOV 2013

[REDACTED]

The Egyptian leadership, however, seems pessimistic about the prospects for significant progress in talks with President Carter.

[REDACTED]

For this reason, Sadat has focussed on the "propaganda" aspects of the trip

[REDACTED]

A similar pessimistic attitude is becoming increasingly apparent among informed Egyptians at large. Al-Ahram's chief editor, al-Gamal, commented to Embassy Cairo that Egyptians are more and more convinced that the US is a "weak partner." In Gamal's view, "Washington always puts out lots of nice words, beautifully written language, but then there is no action." The general tone of Egyptian press coverage of Sadat's trip and current negotiations, while not particularly gloomy, could scarcely be called positive, the Embassy observed, and the growing frustration with the US role as mediator is widespread.

Egyptian frustration with the US and the perceived impasse in the current talks seems to have prompted consideration of pulling out of the negotiations, at least as a tactic in dealing with the US. In a conversation with Ambassador Maestroni in Kuwait, Egyptian Cabinet chief al-Baz said that careful thought was being given to withdrawing from the discussions so that Sadat could cut his losses without serious damage to his domestic position. If such a move occurs, al-Baz said that it would be orchestrated to reflect positively on Sadat's efforts while laying the blame on Israeli "intransigence." Al-Baz observed that such action repeatedly had been urged by the leaders of moderate Arab states during Mubarak's recent tour.

~~TOP SECRET~~